

1                   **THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN**  
2                   **EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS BEING CLAIMED ARE DETAILED**  
3                   **AS FOLLOWS:**

4

5                   1. Apparatus for supporting a cover suspended over a crossbar,  
6       the cover having first and second planer surfaces foldable about a hinge and  
7       opposing peripheral edges spaced from and extending substantially parallel to the  
8       hinge, the planer surfaces sandwiching the crossbar therebetween when folded with  
9       the peripheral edges oriented substantially together and below the crossbar when  
10      supported, said apparatus comprising:

11                  engaging means for supporting and engaging the first and second  
12      planer surfaces adjacent their peripheral edges; and

13                  tension means connected between the crossbar and the engaging  
14      means for supporting the cover with the hinge spaced above the crossbar and in a  
15      substantially stress free state.

16

17                  2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the crossbar is part of a cover  
18      lifter, the crossbar extending transversely between arms rotatable about pivots  
19      between a resting position and a supporting position and wherein,

20                  in the resting position, the crossbar is positioned on one of the first and  
21      second planer surfaces, substantially adjacent and parallel to the hinge and  
22      intermediate the hinge and the peripheral edge of the one of the first and second  
23      planer surfaces; and

1                   in the supporting position, the crossbar is sandwiched between first  
2 and second planer surfaces and the hinge is positioned above the crossbar.

3

4                   3.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tension means further  
5 comprises one or more tension means, each tension means having:

6                   a first end connected to the crossbar, and

7                   a second end connected to the engaging means.

8

9                   4.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tension means has a  
10 length for spacing the hinge above the crossbar when the cover is supported.

11

12                  5.       The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the tension means further  
13 comprises adjusting means for varying the length of the tension means for adjusting  
14 the distance between the engaging means and the crossbar for adjusting the  
15 spacing of the hinge above the crossbar.

16

17                  6.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the engaging means comprise  
18 one or more brackets having support members extending bi-laterally from the  
19 tension means for engaging the peripheral edges of the cover.

20

21                  7.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tension means is a flexible  
22 strap and the engaging means is a "T"-shaped bracket, further comprising:  
23                   two or more brackets; and

1                   two or more straps, one strap per bracket.

2

3                   8.         The apparatus of claim 7 where the bracket is manufactured of  
4     UV resistant plastic polyurethane.

5

6                   9.         The apparatus of claim 7 further wherein two straps are spaced  
7     along the crossbar.

8

9                   10.      The apparatus of claim 1 where said tension means have a  
10   length which is adjustable.

11

12                  11.      The apparatus of claim 1 where said engaging means is a  
13   bracket comprising:

14                  a connection member for connecting to the tension means and aligning  
15   co-linearly therewith; and

16                  a base extending laterally from the connection member for engaging  
17   the peripheral edges of the cover.

18

19                  12.      The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the base of the bracket  
20   comprises support members extending bi-laterally from either side of the connection  
21   member for forming a "T"-shape so as to support first and second planer surfaces of  
22   the cover.

23

1                   13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the support members have  
2 at least one distal end bent away from the cover so as to minimize interference with  
3 the peripheral edges of the cover.

4

5                   14. The support apparatus of claim 1 where the engaging means is  
6 removeably affixed to the cover.

7

8                   15. The support apparatus of claim 14 where the engaging means  
9 is removeably affixed to the cover with a hook and loop type fastener.

10

11                  16. The support apparatus of claim 1 wherein the engaging means  
12 comprises two or more brackets, each bracket having a corresponding tension  
13 means spaced adjacent distal ends of the cover lifter.

14

15                  17. Apparatus for supporting a planer cover hanaging from a  
16 crossbar, the cover being normally suspended by a fabric connection to the  
17 crossbar, the cover having a peripheral edge hanging below the fabric connection,  
18 said apparatus comprising:

19                   one or more brackets for engaging the peripheral edge;

20                   one or more tension means connected between the crossbar and the  
21 engaging means for supporting the cover while the remains fabric connector spaced  
22 above the crossbar in a substantially stress free state.

23

1                   18. A kit for retrofitting a cover normally suspended over a crossbar,  
2 the cover having first and second planer surfaces foldable about a hinge and  
3 opposing peripheral edges spaced from and extending substantially parallel to the  
4 hinge, the planer surfaces sandwiching the crossbar therebetween when folded with  
5 the peripheral edges oriented substantially together and below the crossbar when  
6 supported, said kit comprising:

7                   one or more brackets adapted for supporting and releasably engaging  
8 the first and second planer surfaces of the cover adjacent their peripheral edges;  
9 and

10                  tension members, numbering at least one per bracket, for being  
11 spaced along crossbar and connecting between and the one or more brackets for  
12 supporting the cover with the hinge spaced above the crossbar and in a substantially  
13 stress free state.

14

15                  19. The kit of claim 20 further comprising: two or more "T"-shaped  
16 brackets; and two or more straps, numbering one strap per bracket.

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